



Barrhill Primary & EYC Newsletter October 2026



Dear parents and families,

What a fantastic and busy start we have had to the new school year! It has been wonderful to welcome our pupils back and see them settle so quickly into their classes and routines. Across the school, children have been engaging enthusiastically in their learning, taking part in a range of exciting activities, and demonstrating our school values each and every day. This term has been filled with many memorable experiences, including leadership opportunities, community events and sporting activities.

We have an exciting year ahead with plenty of learning opportunities, special events and activities planned. We look forward to sharing these experiences with you and working together to make this another enjoyable and successful year at Barrhill. Along with our regular newsletters, information will continue to be shared through your child's Learning Journal or direct from the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Eilidh McBean
Shared Head Teacher

UNCRC Article 13 – I have the right to find out and share information

Pupil Leadership

At the start of every school year, our pupils prepare and deliver persuasive speeches as part of the selection process for the roles of School Captain, Vice-Captain, and House Captains for Drumlamford and Kildonan.



I am delighted to announce that, following this year's pupil vote, Steven Whitehurst has been elected as School Captain, with Lucas Orr appointed as Vice-Captain.

I am also pleased to share that Johnny Heath has been elected as Drumlamford House Captain, and Samuel Watt as Kildonan House Captain.

Congratulations to all four pupils on their achievements. We look forward to seeing them represent and support our school community throughout the year

New for this session is the introduction of our Young Leaders of Learning programme. This important leadership role provides pupils with the opportunity to work alongside staff to help shape and improve learning experiences across the school. Young Leaders of Learning will gather the views of their peers, contribute to school improvement discussions, and help ensure that pupil voice remains at the heart of our decision-making.

I am delighted to share that Lucas Orr, Ellie Burton, Johnny Heath and Samuel Watt have been selected to undertake this role on behalf of the school.

Macmillan

A huge thank you to all our families and members of the community for supporting our first pupil-led Macmillan Coffee Morning. Our pupils and staff put a tremendous amount of effort into planning, preparing for, and running the event, and their hard work certainly paid off.



The children are incredibly proud to share that they raised an amazing £410.00 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, and helped make the morning such a success. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated.



Community Arts Programme – Carrick Festival of light – Saturday 24th October, 6.15pm

Carrick Festival of Light has brought people together for 22 years, creating a wonderful celebration of community pride, creativity and connection in Girvan.



The festival begins with a six-week programme of lantern-making workshops involving local schools, community groups and the wider community. Drop-in workshops at the Wee School Art Space invite everyone to make their own lantern or help the team of artists create larger pieces for the parade. No previous experience is needed and all abilities are welcome. The workshops offer time and space for mindful creativity, reflection and connection, helping participants build confidence and share in a sense of achievement. Peer-led supportive workshops are also provided in designated safe spaces, with local mental health charities helping people experiencing mental health problems to take part. Artists can accommodate anyone who may benefit from a quieter space to create.

On the event day, a spectacular River of Light will wind its way through Girvan from the Glendoune Centre to the shore. The lantern parade will culminate in a fire performance on the beach featuring fire sculptures, drawings, light and sound, bringing warmth and light to the darker months.

More information can be found at – [Carrick Festival of Light 2026 — Lantern Parade | Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival](#)

School Improvement

Each academic session we are required to produce a School Improvement Plan which outlines our main priorities for the session, and a Standards & Quality Report which evaluates the progress made the previous session. You can access both documents on our school website.

Community Partnership – Minuntion Estate

Following the success of last year's Countryside Event, hosted by Minuntion Estate and RHET, we were keen to continue developing this valuable community partnership. Last week, our P5-7 pupils were invited to take part in a fishing experience to support a German film company that is documenting a countryside journey from Stranraer to Mallaig. We were honoured to be asked to be involved in this project, and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity. Once the film has been produced, we will share the link with families so that everyone can enjoy seeing the children take part.



Building on this experience, and as part of our ECO Schools journey, we have also arranged a sustainability afternoon where pupils will be planting trees along the River Stinchar. This provides a fantastic hands-on learning experience, allowing children to develop their understanding of biodiversity, climate change, conservation, and the importance of caring for our local environment.

Adventure Centre for Education (ACE)

Adventure Carrick for Education was successful last session in securing funding through SP Energy Networks to deliver a series of activity days for children and families during the school holidays. We are delighted that there are four fully funded activity days remaining, which we will be incorporating into our Outdoor Learning programme this session. Due to the smaller group numbers, we have also been able to include Barr Primary School in these exciting opportunities.

The dates for pupils are:

- 4th November – P1-5
- 16th November – P6-7
- 17th November – P1-5
- 26th November – P6-7



Activities will vary and may include canoeing, giant stand-up paddleboarding (SUP), a Cornish Hill walk, and gorge walking.

Further information, including clothing requirements and consent arrangements, will be shared with families nearer the time. We are very grateful to Adventure Carrick for Education and SP Energy Networks for providing these fantastic outdoor learning experiences for our pupils.

Health & Wellbeing

PE

Our PE days are **Tuesday and Friday**. Please ensure your child has a full PE kit in school, which can be kept on their peg throughout the term.

A suitable PE kit includes:

- A polo shirt or T-shirt
- Leggings, shorts or joggers
- Trainers or gym shoes

Outdoor Learning

Due to the busyness of Term 2, there will be no Outdoor Learning this term. However, pupils will take part in a number of planned ACE Days, which will provide valuable opportunities for learning beyond the classroom.

School Uniform

My thanks to all parents and carers for ensuring that children at Barrhill come to school each day looking so smart and well presented. We are proud of our school uniform and the sense of belonging it creates.

We will continue to encourage our young people to take pride in their appearance by wearing their uniform every day. PE days are still uniform days where children are expected to change in and out of their PE kit.

Medication

For the safety of all children, medication should not be sent to school in schoolbags. If your child requires medication to be administered during the school day, please contact the school office to discuss the arrangements. The appropriate consent forms and documentation must be completed before any medication, including inhalers, can be administered by school staff.

Attendance

A huge thank you to all our parents and families for supporting the school in improving attendance. With your encouragement and commitment, our overall attendance last year was 93.2%. This is a fantastic achievement, and it shows the positive impact of working together to give children the best chance to learn, grow, and succeed. We are so grateful for your continued support and partnership. It is vital for all our children to be in school. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks our pupils falling behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well.

This session we are continuing to support families to further improve attendance, with a goal of reaching at least 94%!

DID YOU KNOW? A child who finishes the year with 90% attendance will have missed around 18 full school days. Missing this much learning can lead to significant gaps in knowledge and understanding.

DID YOU KNOW? Children who attend school regularly are more likely to feel confident, build strong friendships and achieve their full potential



Family Learning

<u>Family Learning Calendar 2026-2027</u>	
<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
<u>TERM 2</u>	
Thursday 10 th December @ 1.30pm	Christmas Market & Concert
<u>TERM 3</u>	
Thursday 28 th January @ 1.30pm	Burns Supper/Scottish Afternoon
Monday 22 nd March @ 10am	Easter Daffodil Tea
<u>TERM 4</u>	
Thursday 20 th May @ 2.00pm	Sports Day
Wednesday 16 th @ 2.15pm	P1-7 Learning Exhibition
Thursday 24 th June @ 1.30pm	Shining Stars Showcase

Diary dates for Term 2

- ★ Wednesday 21st October – P4-7 HPX Event @ Girvan Academy
- ★ Wednesday 28th October – P1-7 ECO/Sustainability tree planting @ Minuntion Estate
- ★ Thursday 29th October – Halloween party 1.30pm (pupils can come in fancy dress all day or change into their costume at lunch time).
- ★ Friday 30th October – Flu Immunisations
- ★ Wednesday 4th November – P1-5 ACE Day
- ★ Monday 16th November – P6-7 ACE Day
- ★ Tuesday 17th November – P1-5 ACE Day
- ★ Thursday 26th November – P6-7 ACE Day
- ★ Wednesday 9th December – P4-7 Sports Hall Athletics Event @ Girvan Academy
- ★ Thursday 10th December – Christmas Fayre & Carol Concert (1.30pm Community Hall)
- ★ Thursday 10th December – Christmas Lunches – pupils only
- ★ Friday 11th December – Whole school Pantomime @ Gaiety Theatre
- ★ Thursday 17th December – Whole School Christmas Alpaca Trek
- ★ Thursday 17th December – Cluster P7 Christmas Party @ Girvan Primary School

- ★ Monday 21st December – Christmas Party 1.30pm – Pupils can change into their party clothes at lunch, either in school or at home if preferred.

Session 2026 - 2027 Holiday Dates

[School and Early Years Centre term dates - South Ayrshire Council](#)

On behalf of everyone at Barrhill, please may I take this opportunity to thank families for their support. Working in close partnership with parents is very important to us and we are grateful for everything you have done to help the children settle into school this session.

Eilidh McBean
Shared Head Teacher